

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

141449Z Sep 05

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ANKARA 005355

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA TASK FORCE  
DEPT PLEASE PASS DHS FOR FEMA/OIA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AEMR](#) [EAID](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TFUS01: TURKS REMEMBER GENEROUS EARTHQUAKE  
ASSISTANCE FROM US AND RESPOND IN KIND

Ref: (A) STATE 163366 (B) ANKARA 5193 (C) STATE 162270

(D) STATE 163278 (E) STATE 163729 (F) ANKARA 5210

[1](#)1. This is an action cable. See paragraph 6.

[1](#)2. Summary: The GOT has formally offered an assistance package totaling USD 2.5 million for Hurricane Katrina, including a USD 1.5 million cash donation to the American Red Cross (already sent), and USD 1 million of in-kind assistance. GOT Emergency Management Agency President Hasan Ipek has requested guidance from post to prioritize the in-kind assistance and to determine how and to whom to arrange delivery. In addition to the GOT's generous offer, the embassy continues to receive numerous letters of condolence and private offers of assistance (including ten full scholarships at the Izmir University of Economics for undergraduate and graduate students in the affected area) from Turkish citizens as they remember America's response to the major earthquake near Istanbul in 1999. End summary.

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OFFICIAL GOT OFFER OF ASSISTANCE  
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[1](#)3. On September 13, econoff received notification from Turkish Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) President Hasan Ipek that the GOT has offered monetary and in-kind assistance totaling USD 2.5 million for Hurricane Katrina. According to Ipek, PM Tayip Erdogan felt strongly that Turkey should assist the USG and held several meetings to determine the best type of assistance. Ipek added that the GOT has already transferred USD 1.5 million to the American Red Cross (ARC). He stated that GOT officials will meet on September 15 to determine what in-kind assistance will comprise the remaining USD 1 million. They plan to use the ref A list of items as a guide.

[1](#)4. Ipek requested assistance in prioritizing the in-kind donation and with determining the logistics for delivery. He stated that the GOT is willing to donate the items either directly to FEMA, to the ARC or to any organization that the USG specifies. According to Ipek, the GOT has contacted NATO EADRCC (Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center) regarding transportation and delivery but will await USG instructions prior to shipping the donation. He added that they will ship the items in any way the USG requests. Finally, he mentioned that the GOT could also send medical personnel to the affected area. MFA Volkan Oskiper confirmed to Econoff that this official offer came from the Prime Ministry and supersedes the previous offer of a search and rescue team (Ref F).

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TURKS TO AMERICANS: WE REMEMBER YOUR KINDNESS  
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[1](#)5. In addition to the private offer of 1.2 million bottles of water (ref B), the embassy continues to receive numerous letters of condolence from Turkish citizens. One of particular note came from a Turkish citizen who currently lives in the World Bank-constructed housing in Izmit, an area badly affected by the massive earthquake that occurred near Istanbul in [1](#)1999. In remembrance for the generosity shown by America in response to this disaster in 1999, the writer included a USD 5 donation. A second letter of special interest is from the leadership of Izmir University of Economics (IEU), where the mission's fourth and newest American Corner is housed. As thanks for the generosity shown to Turkey by American students during the 1999 earthquake, the university has offered full scholarships to five graduate and five undergraduate students who are currently enrolled at universities or community colleges in the affected areas. The university's medium of instruction is English.

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ACTION REQUEST  
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16. Action request: Post requests Department's guidance in responding to the GOT's official offer of assistance. In particular, the embassy would appreciate instructions on whether or not the GOT should make all donations through the ARC.

17. Post POC is Economic Officer Rebecca Patrick (x.2255 or patrickrk@state.gov).

MCELDOWNEY